

We claim:

- 526  
H1
- 5 1. A method for protecting poultry against coccidiosis, said method comprising inoculating chicks with an effective immunization dosage of an anticoccidial vaccine and providing a dietary regimen composition comprising an *Echinacea* supplement in an amount effective for enhancing an immune response to said vaccine and an ingestible carrier.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said inoculation and said *Echinacea* supplementation are carried out simultaneously.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said inoculation and said *Echinacea* supplementation are begun on day-old chicks.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Echinacea* supplement is about 0.1% (w/w) to about 0.5% (w/w) of said dietary composition.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said ingestible carrier is poultry feed.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Echinacea* supplement is removed from said dietary regimen after two weeks.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Echinacea* supplement is *Echinacea purpurea*.

8. A dietary composition for poultry, said composition comprising an *Echinacea* preparation in an amount effective for enhancing an immune response to an anticoccidial vaccine and an ingestible carrier.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein said *Echinacea* is present in an amount of about 0.1% (w/w) to about 0.5% (w/w).

10. The composition of claim 8, wherein said *Echinacea* is *Echinacea purpurea*.

11. The composition of claim 8, wherein said ingestible carrier is poultry feed.